

**Republic of Tajikistan**  
**FY 2002 QUARTERLY REPORT (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter)**  
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**Political Party Development**  
**Civic Education**  
**On-Site Technical Assistance**

**Submitted to the**  
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## **I. PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES**

### **a. Political Party Development**

#### ***Parties Reaching Out to Attract Women, Youth Membership – One-Year Update***

In April, exactly one year after all political parties signed the “Expansion of Women and Youth Participation” Protocol at an IFES Party Development Seminar in Dushanbe, IFES/Tajikistan conducted a series of follow-up meetings with representatives of the political parties to gauge progress achieved since last year. The Communist Party, the Islamic Revival Party and the Socialist Party all reported an increase in the number of women taking part in party activities. The Congress of National Unity for Tajikistan (CNUT) indicated that it has appointed its women party members to be responsible for youth and women’s affairs in the in it’s central committees in Gorno-Badakhshan, Khatlon Oblast, Soghd Oblast, the Hissor Valley, and the Karotegin Valley. These women are responsible for reaching out to other woman at the local level as well as to and youth, educating them on existing societal problems and introducing them to CNUT’s objectives, platform and status.

The People’s Democratic Party of Tajikistan (PDPT) maintains special subcommittees for youth and women affairs in all of its offices throughout the country. The party currently boasts several women in key leadership positions, and the PDPT is attempting to set the standard for diversity among the registered parties. Currently, women and youth represent 30% and 50% of PDPT members, respectively.

At the time of the signing of April 2001 Protocol, the Democratic Party of Tajikistan (DPT) reported that it had already included most of the protocol’s provisions in its platform. After signing the protocol, the DPT included the remaining provisions in its platform and began to actively pursue their implementation. As a result of a vote by the DPT Presidium Session on April 22, 2001, the party created a Department of Women and Youth Affairs. The party has also established women and youth departments in the regional party organizations. Additionally, the party has developed a special program for involving more women and youth in communications and mass media outreach. The DPT began meeting with the representatives of women NGOs in Tajikistan to increase its outreach efforts.

#### ***Political Party Discussion Groups***

In addition to meetings with representatives of political parties, IFES held a meeting with the Director of the National Association of Political Scientists in Tajikistan (NAPST), Dr. Abdughani Mamadazimov. Dr. Mamadazimov proposed to hold a joint NAPST-IFES event in Soghd Oblast in May, where political parties and movements, along with government representatives, would debate the topic “Diversity, The Role of Political Parties in Civil Society and Constructive Opposition”. IFES agreed to co-sponsor the event if NAPST included the discussion topic “Youth and Women Outreach by Political Parties and the Government”.

#### ***Development Seminar – Media Relations and Public Outreach***

The Fourth IFES Political Party Development Seminar, “Media Relations and Public Outreach” was conducted in Dushanbe in April. Representatives from all political parties and 2 movements participated in the seminar, organized in cooperation with

the First Press Club of Tajikistan. A total of seven guest speakers presented a broad range of topics, with special emphasis on how to work with mass media. The specific information presented focused on how to prepare for print and broadcast interviews, how to hold a press conference, how to prepare a press release, how to stay 'on message,' and the best ways for political parties to deliver information on their platforms. IFES' work in this quarter with political parties was designed to assist them in developing messages that will effectively reach out to all potential constituents. Parties need to work diligently to attract and expand their support bases around the country, as this recognition and support will be vital to the party's chances of achieving future electoral success.

### ***Development Seminar – Communications Strategies and Image-making***

In June, IFES conducted a hands-on seminar on "Communications Strategies and Image-Making" in Khojand. All five registered political parties participated, sending three representatives apiece. Party participants consisted mostly of members of youth and women's subcommittees within the parties. A representative of the Oblast Hukumat, Mrs. Kenjaeva, greatly supported the event by being a main participant in the role-playing exercises conducted as part of the training. All participants were broken into symbolic, hypothetical parties in order to break down the barriers that normally exist among political adversaries. Each group prepared a party message and selected a spokesperson, who then presented the "party's" message to the other participants during a mock interview session. The interviews were held with a cameraman and reporter from Asia-TR television and radio company present. Participants and trainers took the opportunity to critique each presenter after reviewing their respective videotaped presentations. Several local media reporters, as well as BBC and Radio Liberty, attended the seminar, thus providing the participants with an additional opportunity to practice their skills on behalf of their real parties.

### ***Televised Parliamentary Roundtable Series***

The first IFES-sponsored parliamentary outreach TV show of the quarter was aired on national television in April, with the participation of parliamentary factions and party representatives. Muhammadato Sultonov, the Majlisi Oli Press Secretary, provided key support for the project. The event was designed to allow ordinary citizens to ask questions of their election officials in parliament, and to give needed exposure to deputies and the work they do. Given that the work of parliamentary deputies is viewed with some scepticism and uncertainty, it has been deemed important to provide citizens with an "inside view" of the job of a parliamentarian, in the hopes that government will be seen as representative and for the people. While this program was designed to familiarize and acquaint viewers with the work of parliamentarians, future programs will include political party and government representatives addressing "hot button" societal issues.

In May, in cooperation with Muhammadato Sultonov and the Majlisi Oli, IFES sponsored a second televised parliamentary roundtable, aired on Tajik National television (TVT). Deputies from both houses of the parliament, representing the People's Democratic Party of Tajikistan (PDPT) and the Communist Party of Tajikistan (CPT), participated in the show and provided information on their current activities. The deputies also discussed the status of key legislation of 16 constitutional laws and over 100 other laws. The broadcast included the participation of Sanavbar Rahimova, chairwoman of the Parliamentary Committee on Women and Family

Affairs, who responded to local women's questions on the economic situation and employment issues.

All 5 political party representatives from Khatlon oblast participated in the IFES/Parliamentary TV production, which was aired on National TV in mid-June. The party representatives evaluated the legislative process and provided recommendations for its improvement to the Majlisi Namoyandagon. Sadriddin Qalandarov from the Islamic Renaissance Party recommended the creation of a law on agricultural exports to assist the mitigation of the nation's poverty. Tolibsho Saidov from the Democratic Party suggested more regular meetings between deputies and their constituents. Host Muhammadato Sultonov, the Press Secretary of Majlisi Oli, stated that the dialogue and recommendations provided to the deputies would be given serious consideration.

In addition to the programming conducted during the Third Quarter, IFES discussed possible future joint efforts with the Press Secretary Sultonov, including parliamentary staff training and more TV roundtable programs. Special emphasis was placed on the need to consider training for parliamentary staff in the area of information resources, best practices for press offices, and other key areas of informational outreach.

The final TV outreach program of the current IFES series will be produced in the Leninskii district in early July. Representatives of the five political parties, possibly including two members of the Majlisi Namoyandagon, are expected to participate.

#### ***IFES Assesses Islamic Renaissance Party Activities***

Following up on youth and gender development issues as part of political party development, IFES Project Manager Christopher Shields met with the Central Women's Department of the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan (IRPT), which provided IFES brief information on its activities and prospects. According to the information provided, the IRPT's women's departments function in all 41 districts of the country. These departments mainly conduct seminars, round tables, and conferences on the issues of women's, children's and human rights. These rights are presented from the Islamic perspective, as well as the legal perspective. Additionally, departments build relationships with NGOs, women's committees of other political parties and other women's groups. Planned activities of these departments include events on childcare, the celebration of national holidays, and other cultural programs. Perhaps most significant is the IRPT's plans to promote women's candidates for local and national office, which would represent a significant step in the IRPT gaining legitimacy as a functioning political entity.

#### ***Other Parties' Activities Assessed***

During the meeting with the Communist Party of Tajikistan, IFES received a protocol from the XXVI Congress of the CPT held in July 2001, which described the efforts at all levels of the party organization to systematically involve youth and women. According to the protocol, women provide 13.5% of the party's membership and youth (up to 30 years old) - 10.9%. In the party's executive body, women make up 9% and youth - 5% of its membership. According to party representatives, oblast and district party branches began developing departments on women and youth affairs and

Consultative Councils in 1997. Today, these departments function in a majority of regions.

Additional meetings were held with the representatives of the Socialist Party of Tajikistan (SPT) and People's Democratic Party of Tajikistan. Murhusein Narziev of the SPT noted that the party had established women and youth committees in Zafarobod, Isfara, Uroteppa and Khojand in North Tajikistan and Kurghon-Teppa, Shartouz and Qabodiyon in South Tajikistan. These committees focus on the impact of politics, economy and Tajik culture on youth and women.

PDPT activist Soleha Ahmedova also discussed a number of possible youth and women projects with IFES. Ms. Ahmedova proposed the development of summer camps for youth and women activists of all political parties, similar to the ones IFES currently conducts on civic education, where the rank-and-file could gain a broader knowledge of political organization and develop cross party ties that would benefit the further development of political parties' roles in the democratic infrastructure of Tajikistan.

In April, IFES/Tajikistan proceeded with its multidimensional initiative in the country. In addition to the first IFES-sponsored parliamentary outreach TV show this year, IFES continued its political party work on the issues of youth and gender and negotiated to hold a joint NAPST-IFES event, which would discuss youth and women outreach by political parties and the government. Furthermore, the fourth IFES political party development seminar, "Media Relations and Public Outreach" taught political parties how to work with mass media and the best ways to deliver their message.

Continued assessment of the political party development and parliamentary programming indicates that a lack of information, both among the political parties not associated with the President, as well as the public in general, emphasizes the real need to broaden public knowledge of advantages of a pluralistic political environment. This is the area where IFES/Tajikistan can best achieve its political party development goals, as well as best meet the needs of the political parties. As a result, during its May activities IFES supported expansion of the televised parliamentary roundtables and the proposed parliamentary staff training. If implemented, the parliamentary training will provide IFES with a greater institutional knowledge of the Parliament, as well as assist parliamentarians in the long run by making staff more efficient and productive.

In addition to political party development seminars and televised roundtables, IFES/Tajikistan is beginning to focus more on regional political party training seminars in order to expand the comprehension level of political pluralism beyond the capital. The demand for continued and expanded televised political debate sessions with party representatives indicates the strong thirst for information on matters of politics and governance. IFES continued to work toward the promotion of multi-party democracy by assisting all parties in publicizing their views and platforms. The televised sessions provide an ideal means for reaching the maximum amount of citizens, and the support of the Majlisi Namoyandagon and its Press Office in helping serve as an enabling agent has proven most encouraging. It is expected that the

political debate will continue to intensify in the coming months, and IFES will keep encouraging parties and the parliament to reach out to the general public.

## **b. Civic Education**

### ***Student Action Committees***

In April, the four Dushanbe IFES Student Action Committee (SAC) mentors and student leaders were invited to participate in a briefing with IFES/Tajikistan and USAID Acting Assistant Administrator Gloria Steele. During the presentation, all participants described their projects and the impact the program had on both themselves and their communities. The students impressed listeners with the breadth of issues they tackled during the execution of the SACs, ranging from school improvement activities to assistance for senior citizens and the disabled. This range of activities reflects the spirit of volunteerism and creativity that IFES had hoped for in this project, and was also an output of the strong leadership that teacher-mentors provided upon being trained by IFES. The SACs, having been created and fostered in schools but existing as extracurricular activities, continued to perpetuate during after-school hours and weekends. Students expressed the desire to continue with the activities even into the summer months.

IFES/Tajikistan held a meeting with SACs in Khojand area in order to get updated information about their activities and development. Three Khojand SACs reported an increase in the membership, and approximately 60 to 80 students are now estimated to be volunteering in different SAC projects. In addition, Kulyab schools # 1, 2 and 37 set up their own Student Action Committees. These were the final series of schools to set up SAC activities during the 2001-02 school year. IFES explored the possibility of holding SAC Forums for Dushanbe, Kurghon-Teppa, Kulyab and Khojand students to allow them to better share their experiences, exchange opinion, and compare lessons learned. IFES saw this as a good opportunity as well to extract benchmark information and measure success achieved against its strategic objectives and intermediate results.

### ***Meeting between IFES SACs and Deputy Assistant Secretary Lynn Pascoe***

On Monday, June 17, three of the four Dushanbe-area schools participating in the IFES/Tajikistan Student Action Committee program conducted a presentation for U.S. Department of State Deputy Assistant Secretary B. Lynn Pascoe at the U.S. Embassy in Dushanbe. Student Action Committee participants Ilhom Homidov from Dushanbe School #7, Zebunisso Mardonova from Dushanbe School #42, and Zarrina Lolakova from Dushanbe School #53 briefed Secretary Pascoe about their experiences in putting together and operating Student Action Committees (SAC). SAC Mentor Lutfiya Bobieva from Dushanbe School #53 also participated in meeting. The students noted the difficulties faced in organizing such committees for the first time. Unlike other school organizations, the SACs are student operated, with teachers playing only a mentor role. The achievements of committees draw considerable notice and encouraged growth in both the SACs and the projects they are conducting. While the focus was on the Student Action Committees, Pascoe was also provided with a substantive briefing package, which included information on the Student Local Government Days, Political Party Programming and other aspects of IFES Tajikistan's work.

Through the assistance of IFES Tajikistan's Civic Education Programming on School Based Activities, SACs have been established in four Dushanbe schools and have implemented numerous projects, including renovating a classroom in their school, providing sports equipment and musical instruments to the school, as well as number of community projects. Additionally, IFES Tajikistan has helped create 14 other SACs in the cities of Khojand, Kulyab, and Kurghon-Teppa.

IFES Tajikistan's Civic Education programming is helping to build a strong foundation for Tajikistan's emerging democratic infrastructure and expects to expand the number of cities and Student Action Committees in the coming year.

### ***Civic Education Curriculum Development***

In the first part of the quarter, IFES/Tajikistan met with the First Deputy Minister of Education, Mr. Abdulbashir Rashidov to discuss the first volume of IFES' proposed civic education textbook, as a part of a course on civics and democracy. Mr. Rashidov recommended submitting an official memo of implementation to the Minister of Education, including its aims and planned results, as well as a step-by-step explanation of the implementation procedures. Rashidov also proposed that IFES prepares a training memo and an explanation of how the proposed textbook would fit in the newly approved national curriculum. Finally, Rashidov suggested that consideration be given to Uzbek and Kyrgyz language versions of the textbook, in addition to the planned Russian and Tajik versions. IFES gratefully accepted all of these suggestions and prepared a memo detailing its methodological and implementation plans for the project. Especially pertinent was the suggestion to publish the materials for the civics course in multiple languages. IFES has conducted translations of a similar civics textbook into Kyrgyz and Uzbek for use in Kyrgyzstan, and could render the necessary adaptations to a Tajikistan-specific book with little difficulty. IFES also recognized the need to match the proposed civics course and textbook with the state standards for education on that topic. As standards and norms for civics education are in the developmental stage, IFES has provided recommendations to the Ministry of Education on approaches it may wish to take as it attempts to standardize the study of civics and democracy at the secondary and primary school levels.

Final editing of the first volume of the textbook continued during the quarter, with the Teachers' Guide (which accompanies the textbook), also modified based on trial testing with a control group of students and teachers. Meetings were held with several local textbook contributors, and prospective Tajik translators were interviewed to identify specialists who would work on the Tajik version of the civic education textbook. IFES/Tajikistan identified a possible locally-based printing company which could provide affordable and professional service in printing services.

In addition to coordinating with the Ministry of Education to pilot the textbook, IFES worked on plans to conduct informal piloting with schools where it already conducts school-based activities, such as the schools participating in the SAC project. IFES additionally received inquiries from educational institutions outside the state system, including the newly created private school, the Economic Lyceum, and the UNDP School for Ex-Combatants of the Civil War. Anvar Saidov, Director of the Economic Lyceum of Dushanbe indicated that the Lyceum is interested in using the IFES textbook in its curriculum. Firuza Muhamedjanova, the Programme Analyst at UNDP

responsible for the ex-combatants' education project, also reviewed a copy of the draft textbook for its possible inclusion in the UNDP School's curriculum.

By June, IFES/Tajikistan had officially submitted Volume One of its draft Civic Education Textbook aimed at 9<sup>th</sup> year students to the Ministry of Education. Along with the draft textbook, which was submitted in the Russian language, a proposed Memorandum of Understanding was also submitted in order to speed the process of implementing the proposed textbook pilot project in schools. By obtaining official Ministry documents recognizing the text, IFES hoped to facilitate participation of local and district education authorities.

The English language version of the Tajik Civic Education Textbook was compiled and was ready for translation into Tajik as the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter drew to a close.

### ***Democracy Summer Camps***

During the early part of the quarter IFES selected local partners for the upcoming Democracy Summer Camps, two of them being partners from the 2001 Democracy Summer Camp series, the NGO "Chashmai Hayot" of the Sughd Oblast and the NGO "Mehr" of Dushanbe. The trainers from the NGOs "Chashmai Hayot", "Women and Society", "Fath", "Shohrud" and Center for Human Rights, which were involved with last year's summer camps, also expressed their eagerness to return as trainers this year. The application form for this year's summer camps was published in two national newspapers, Digest Press and Asia Plus.

"Chashmai Hayot" distributed 50 summer camp student application forms to mountainous regions to ensure broad participation in the Sughd camp. Furthermore, Mrs. Mirpochoeva Mavjuda, the Inspector of Sughd Oblast Education Ministry who is assisting IFES with summer camp arrangements, requested all education departments of the Sughd Oblast to inform students about the program. IFES and its local NGO partners conducted final interviews for prospective Soghd Oblast Camp participants in May, with interviews for the Dushanbe-area camp conducted in the months of May and June.

To select participants for the summer camp that will take place on July 2-9, interviews were held with applicants from the 18 districts of the Soghd Oblast. Out of 225 students interviewed, 70 students were chosen, and the list of these names was sent to Chashmai Hayot, IFES' primary NGO partner in the Soghd Oblast DSC. IFES also prepared DSC participants' brochure in Tajik and finalized the choice of trainers from NGOs Fath, ASTI, Shohrud, Women and Society, Chashmai Hayot and the Center for Human Rights. In addition, Mr. Akram Aslonov, the Deputy Head of Khojand Gorono met with IFES to discuss the nomination of experienced SLGD and SAC teachers to make presentations at the DSC.

Two copies of the draft IFES civic education textbook were shared with the Khojand NGOs participating in the Soghd Oblast Democracy Summer Camp to include activities from the textbook. Similar arrangements are planned for the Dushanbe area DSC. DSC participants and trainers will be asked to complete evaluation forms following these activities and the information will be shared with the Ministry of Education.



During the month of June, IFES/Tajikistan completed final preparations for the upcoming Democracy Summer Camp in Soghd Oblast in July. It is planned that theme-based seminars will be held every day, with each of the six groups of students attending a different agenda track each day until they have participated in all. Each seminar track will involve presentations on a topic, followed by participant discussions. Among possible topics are: citizen's rights, elections and voters' rights, main principles of democracy, gender issues, SACs, human rights, and critical thinking seminars.

Additionally, every student will take an examination on democracy issues at the beginning of the DSC and at the end, to measure how much of the information has been absorbed and understood. A mock election will be held on the last day of the camp to provide a hands-on opportunity to experience democracy in action.

Preparations have also begun for the August Democracy Summer Camp in Dushanbe. The daily agenda for the Dushanbe DSC was received from local NGO partner Mehr. The seminar track agendas from the other local partner NGOs were expected soon. All student interviews in Dushanbe have been completed, and a list of selected students was being prepared.

It is planned to follow-up with students from both Democracy Summer Camps to determine where additional SACs and other student-based civic education programming can be established in Year Three. Additionally, creation of a database of all student participants from past and present IFES programs will be a new goal for IFES' work in Year Three.

The campsites for both events were selected: Karatag in the Dushanbe Region and Zuhal in Soghd Oblast. IFES met with the administration of both campsites and made all necessary logistical arrangements. The first summer camp will take place in Sughd Oblast on July 2 – 10, with the second scheduled to take place between August 4 – 12.

### ***AED Study Tour***

Preparations have begun to select participants for the upcoming IFES-sponsored Civic Education Study Tour, which will provide training and experience in advanced methodologies and strategies for civic education teaching aimed at harnessing student energies and interest in volunteerism, like the IFES' Student Action Committee project in Tajikistan. The tour will be partnered with Junior Achievement International, and will focus on Junior Achievement programming impact on Civic Education, Junior Achievement methodologies, JA best practices, and direct meetings with JA mentor/teachers and participating students. The Study tour will take place the first ten days of November in either the US or the Czech Republic.

### ***Conclusions***

As evidenced by the increased interest during the visit of Deputy Assistant Secretary B. Lynn Pascoe in June, together with the enthusiasm among students, teachers, and local education officials, IFES/Tajikistan projects continued to make impact in supporting democracy through education and informational exchange. Its political party work and civic education programs have drawn a high level of interest and participation of students and education officials at all levels. It is an additional

goal in the upcoming school year to train teachers in the new civic education material, as they hold the key to furthering student interest and performance in civics and democracy. A comprehensive teacher-training program was being drawn up by the end of June that would compliment the planned introduction of the student textbook for the September 2002 pilot phase.

Initial response to the SAC discussions at the Soghd Oblast Democracy Summer Camp indicated considerable interest of students from outlying areas in developing programs similar to those already established in Dushanbe, Khojand, and Kurghon-Teppa. IFES will capitalize on this strong interest and expand SAC activities and the number of participating schools for the upcoming 2002-03 school year.

Projects such as political party development and civic education are key to IFES' long-term goal of promoting democracy development in the Tajikistan. Continued development of both programs, focusing on responding to the real needs of the political and education sectors, is foremost on IFES' priority list.

## **II. MATERIALS PRODUCED**

- Draft Civics and Democracy Textbook for Secondary Schools – Volume I (in Russian)
- Draft Civics and Democracy Textbook for Secondary Schools – Volume I (in English)

## **III. ISSUES AND PROBLEMS**

IFES worked with the Ministry of Education to gain a copy of the new “State Standards of Education” document in order to better link its civic education course and textbook project to the national curriculum. The document was not provided despite repeated requests, though the Ministry itself had asked IFES to coordinate the project along the document's parameters. The situation ultimately led to a delay in IFES submitting a draft Memorandum of Understanding to the Ministry governing its working relationship and formal support of its civic education program. By the end of the Quarter the document had not been obtained, though continued dialogue with the Ministry took place. The draft MoU was submitted to the Ministry for consideration.

Some additional delays in the textbook project occurred due to the availability of top quality Tajik translators. Though the Ministry of Education has requested a draft of the civics textbook be submitted for review in the Russian language, IFES has set a priority of translating the book into the Tajik language. Most of the books will be used by students speaking Tajik, and IFES has taken care to assure the quality of the translation is of needed quality. Accurate translation was an issue, as many of the terms included in the book dealing with democracy, civil society, and other concepts did not have a “clean” equivalent in Tajik. IFES worked during the quarter to locate both an effective translator as well as a teacher trainer to help with the project.

With regard to Political Party Development (PPD), it is hoped that the expected arrival of the short-term political party consultant will fulfill the remaining political party training events set out in the overall benchmarks through the conduct of a series of regional political party organizational training seminars. Review of the political parties' abilities and resources indicate that this is the area in which PPD programming can provide the greatest impact. Follow-up on Youth and Women PPD activities may also be conducted jointly with the

training seminars to reconfirm the information provided by the political parties regarding their activities. Additional positive impact for the political parties could be guaranteed through the proposed series of televised political party round-tables around the country, through a partnership with local stations of the Internews Network. Analysis of the current political situation indicates that citizens lack knowledge of the existence of parties other than the majority party and those parties need to understand their role in offering the citizens a cohesive set of policies that differentiate them from the majority party.

School-Based Activities will profit from the inclusion of SAC training in the Democracy Summer Camps (DSC). These sessions will help to broaden the impact of student-initiated activities and hopefully encourage regional and local level education officials to be more receptive to such programming once it is understood that it can directly benefit the school systems with a minimum of resources. Additionally, the success of last year's DSCs has provided an impetus to expand the programming, dependent on the receipt of the proposed supplemental funds requested from USAID. It is hoped that a total of six to eight summer camps will be conducted in 2003, with four in the south and four in the north. By utilizing existing venues and established working relationships, it may be possible to concentrate funds to improve camp facilities at the same time as expanding the reach of the DSCs. This is important owing to the lack of suitable facilities, especially in the southern portion of the country, due to the damage incurred to most such facilities during the Civil War.